

LAKE LANIER ASSOCIATION
REPORT FOR CONGRESSIONAL HEARING
AUGUST 8, 2006

CONTENTS

ASSOCIATION INTRODUCTION

LAKE LANIER RESOURCE

CLEAN WATER ISSUES

FULL LAKE ISSUES

SUMMARY

LAKE LANIER ASSOCIATION
INTRODUCTION

**MISSION: DEDICATED TO A CLEAN AND FULL
LAKE LANIER TO ENHANCE ITS
ECONOMIC VALUE TO GEORGIA**

ESTABLISHED IN 1966

**4000 MEMBERS (1700 MEMBERSHIPS)
HOME OWNERS, BUSINESSES, WATER
USERS, DOCK OWNERS, RECREATION
USERS**

ACTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**MANY SOLID PROGRAMS
SHORE SWEEP (LAKE CLEAN UP)
ADOPT A LAKE (LAKE MONITORING)
ADVOCACY**

LAKE LANIER FACTS

“FINEST NATURAL RESOURCE IN GEORGIA”

CREATED 1958 – 1960

39,000 ACRES OF WATER

640 MILES OF SHORELINE

8,500 PRIVATE DOCKS

10,000 BOATS AT 10 MARINAS

8 MILLION ANNUAL VISITORS

DRINKING WATER FOR 4+MILLION GEORGIANS

\$5 BILLION ANNUAL ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

66% OF THE ACF WATER STORAGE

5-7% OF THE ACF WATERSHED

ISSUES “KEEPING THE LAKE CLEAN”

**MUNICIPALITIES CALLING FOR SEWAGE DISCHARGES
INTO LANIER (MNGWPD CALLS FOR 200+
MGD IN 2025)**

**GEORGIA COURTS HAVE SUPPORTED THE LLA AND
DENIED EPD SEWAGE DISCHARGE PERMITS**

**SEWAGE DISCHARGES ARE NECESSARY FOR
SUSTAINED GEORGIA GROWTH. HOWEVER
THE SEWAGE DISCHARGE MUST BE AS CLEAN
AS POSSIBLE THROUGH TREATMENT PROCESSES**

**GWINNETT COUNTY HAS AGREED WITH THE LLA TO
MAKE THEIR DISCHARGE VERY CLEAN AND
DEEP (KEEPS POLLUTION AT THE BOTTOM)**

**GEORGIA EPD HAS NOT ISSUED THE GWINNETT
PERMIT THAT WAS APPLIED FOR IN THE
SUMMER OF 2005**

SUGGESTIONS FOR KEEPING THE LAKE CLEAN

**EPD SHOULD ISSUE THE GWINNETT SEWAGE
DISCHARGE PERMIT**

**EPD SHOULD DIRECT THAT ALL FUTURE LAKE
LANIER SEWAGE DISCHARGES MUST BE AT
LEAST AS CLEAN AND DEEP AS THE
GWINNETT PERMIT REQUEST**

**GEORGIA SHOULD INSURE THAT THE “WATER
MANAGEMENT PLAN” SPECIFICALLY
ADDRESSES CLEANLINESS OF SEWAGE
DISCHARGES AND REUSE STRATEGIES
WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE
BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

ISSUE: KEEPING THE LAKE FULL

THE ACF MUST BE MANAGED AS A SYSTEM IN A PRUDENT MANNER

LOW LAKE LEVELS ARE VERY DANGEROUS TO BOATERS, SWIMMERS AND THE ECONOMY

RESERVOIRS ARE SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS, AND SHOULD BE MANAGED ACCORDINGLY

A BALANCE BETWEEN ENDANGERED SPECIES AND HUMAN REQUIREMENTS MUST BE EFFECTED. THE LOUDEST VOICE SHOULD NOT ALWAYS PREVAIL

WATER FLOWS AT THE FLORIDA LINE FOR MUSSELS AND STURGEON SHOULD NOT BE ARTIFICIALLY INFLATED TO A LEVEL GREATER THAN THE NATURAL WATER FLOWS, WITHOUT RESERVOIRS, UNLESS EXCESS WATER FLOW CAPABILITY EXISTS

ECONOMIC VALUE OF WATER MUST BE EVALUATED BEFORE RELEASE DECISIONS ARE IMPLEMENTED. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF LAKE LANIER IS IN EXCESS OF \$5 BILLION ANNUALLY AS DETERMINED BY A STUDY DONE BY THE MARINE TRADE ASSOCIATION OF METRO ATLANTA. (EXAMPLE: LAKE LANIER CONTRIBUTION TO GEORGIA VERSUS A VERY SMALL OYSTER INDUSTRY IN FLORIDA)

SUGGESTIONS KEEPING THE LAKE FULL

**ESTABLISH A FAIR LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR THE
ENDANGERED SPECIES, BUT NOT TO THE
DETRIMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND
SAFETY. MUSSELS SHOULD NOT TRUMP
PEOPLE**

**IMPLEMENT SOLID REINFORCED MANAGEMENT OF
THE ACF SYSTEM, RATHER THAN OVER
REACTING TO SPECIFIC REQUESTS**

**PRE VALIDATE ALL WATER RELEASE
DECISIONS WITH ONSITE VISUAL INSPECTIONS**

**SET A LOWER LIMIT FOR LAKE LANIER (EXAMPLE
1060) AND DO NOT GO BELOW THAT MINIMUM.**

**CONSIDER RAISING FULL POOL AT LANIER TO 1073
FT. THIS WOULD BE LIKE ADDING A 25 BILLION
GALLON RESERVOIR TO THE SYSTEM.**

**CONSIDER CLOSER MANAGEMENT OF THE FLINT
RIVER, PARTICULARLY THE WITHDRAWAL
AND PERMITTING PROCESS**

SUMMARY

**LAKE LANIER IS THE MOST VALUABLE NATURAL RESOURCE
IN GEORGIA.**

**LANIER MUST BE KEPT CLEAN AND FULL FOR THE
ECONOMIC VITALITY AND GROWTH OF GEORGIA**

**PRUDENT MANAGEMENT OF THE SYSTEM IS ESSENTIAL FOR
THE SUCCESS OF GEORGIA'S OBJECTIVES**